



# State Board of Food & Agriculture

## Overview

The State Board of Food and Agriculture advises the governor and secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on agricultural issues and consumer needs.

The board's 15 members are appointed by the governor and are carefully selected to represent a broad range of agricultural commodities, a variety of geographic regions, and both the University of California and California State University academic systems.

### CONTACT:

If you have questions or comments regarding California State Board of Food and Agriculture members or meetings, you may contact:

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State Board of Food & Agriculture  
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## Membership

Board members are residents of California and are specially qualified for service through farm, business, agricultural economics, environmental protection, or consumer affairs experience.

Members serve four-year terms without pay. There are no term limits and appointments do not require Senate confirmation.

Members are selected using the following guidelines:

- One member represents the agricultural sciences division of the University of California.
- One member represents the agricultural department of a state university or college offering agriculture as part of the curriculum.
- Two members are from the state at-large and represent the agricultural industry.
- Seven members represent the agricultural industry.
- Two members with knowledge of the environment represent the public.
- Two members with knowledge of consumer affairs represent the public.

## 2004 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, meetings of the State Board of Food and Agriculture will be held at the California Environmental Protection Agency's Central Valley Auditorium in Sacramento. The CalEPA building is located at 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

**January 28, 2004**

**February 24, 2004**

**March 23, 2004**

**April 28, 2004**

**May 26, 2004**

**June 30, 2004**

**July 28, 2004**

**August 25, 2004**

**September 29, 2004**

**October 27, 2004**

**November 24, 2004**

**December 29, 2004**

# State Board Member Biographies

## **DRUE P. BROWN**

**Member since 2001**

Brown has owned AgCEL, a Sacramento-based consulting company specializing in agriculture and the environment, since 1995. Prior to forming his company, Brown consulted on agricultural issues in various capacities for 18 years. He served as principal investigator for the UC Davis Community Outreach Partnership Center and as senior consultant for the Assembly Office of Research. He earned a bachelor and master of science degrees from UC Davis.

## **A. CHARLES CRABB, PH.D.**

**Member since 2001**

In 1999, Dr. Crabb was named dean of the College of Agriculture at CSU Chico. Previous to this position, he was director of the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, South Central Region. He is a member of the California Vertebrate Pest Council and has authored and co-authored 26 publications on pest management. Dr. Crabb earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries biology and a doctorate in ecology from UC Davis. He earned his master's degree in biology from Bowling Green State University.

## **MARY EISEN CRAMER**

**Member since 2001**

Cramer served as vice president of Norco Ranch until its acquisition by Moark Productions and Land-O-Lakes in 2000. She is past president of the Pacific Egg and Poultry Association and has served as a board member on the California Egg Commission and West Coast United Egg Producers. She has received many awards, including the 64th Assembly District Woman of the Year in 1997. Cramer received a bachelor of arts degree from Woodbury University in Los Angeles.

## **ROBERT P. FEENSTRA**

**Member since 2003**

Feenstra has been executive director of Milk Producers, a dairy service trade organization in California for 35 years. As a former dairy farmer, he owned and operated the family farm in Paramount, California. He is a nationally recognized dairy expert, and is called upon to speak at dairy events throughout the country. In addition, he has been a dairy advocate, a residual waste coordinator, and a recycled products and waste management consultant.

## **W.R. "REG" GOMES, PH.D.**

**Member since 1996**

Dr. Gomes has served as vice-president of agriculture and natural resources for the University of California system since 1995. He is also the university's representative to the Joint Policy Council on Agriculture and Higher Education, serving as co-chair, and he is a board member of the California Farm Bureau Federation. Dr. Gomes earned a bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University, a master's degree in dairy science from Washington State University, and a doctorate in animal science from Purdue University.

## **JOHN H. HAYASHI**

**STATE BOARD PRESIDENT**

**Member since 2001**

Hayashi is a third generation member of Y. Hayashi & Sons. He is managing partner of Irrigation West, where he designed and implemented a new program for water conservation. Since 1991, he has served as president of FARM, Inc., where he consults with clients regarding production of vegetables using less water, fertilizers and chemicals without yield loss. Hayashi studied agriculture at Cal Poly.

## **JOHN HISSERICH, DR.P.H.**

**Member since 2001**

Dr. Hisserich is associate vice president of health affairs for the University of Southern California (USC). At USC, he also holds academic appointments in the schools of medicine and pharmacy and is adjunct assistant professor of public administration. He has held all three of these positions since 1984. Dr. Hisserich has been on the California Coastal Commission and Committee of Bar Examiners, for which he served twice as chair. Dr. Hisserich holds a bachelor's degree in government from CSU Los Angeles and master's and doctorate degrees in public health from UC Los Angeles.

# State Board Member Biographies (continued)

**CHARLIE HOPPIN****Member since 2002**

Hoppin runs a diversified farming operation on 2200 acres in Sutter County. Production crops include rice, melons, walnuts, oilseeds and wheat. He serves as chairman of the California Rice Industry Association and vice-chairman of the Farmer's Rice Cooperative. He is former director of Sutter Mutual Water Company and California/Arizona Watermelon Association. He received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from CSU Chico.

**WILLIAM (BILL) J. LYONS, JR.****Member since 2003**

Lyons served as CDFA Secretary from 1999 to 2003. He has managed the 6000-acre family ranch located in the Modesto area since 1976. He served as chairman of the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency State Committee. Lyons has a bachelor's degree and a secondary teaching credential from CSU Chico.

**CRAIG McNAMARA****Member since 2001**

McNamara is president and owner of Sierra Orchards, a diversified farming operation that includes field, processing and marketing operations, producing primarily walnuts and grape rootstock. He also serves as founder and president of the Center for Land-Based Learning. McNamara is a founding trustee of UC Merced, a member of the UC Davis Dean's Advisory Council, a board member of Valley Vision, and past chairman of the Agricultural Network and the California Walnut Commission. McNamara received his bachelor's degree in plant and soil science from UC Davis.

**MARVIN A. MEYERS****Member since 2001**

Meyers runs a diversified farming operation in partnership with his son and daughter through Meyers Farming; Oxford Farms, Inc.; and Meyers Farms Family Trust. Meyers is chairman of the Improvement District No. 2 Advisory Committee and California State Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee. He is a member of the board of directors for the San Luis Water District, Western Growers Association, National Cotton Council and California Farm Bureau Federation. Meyers earned a bachelor of science degree from CSU Fresno.

**NIAZ MOHAMED, JR.****Member since 2003**

Mohamed is president of the family's farming operations in California and Arizona. He is a member of the National Onion Association and Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association. In addition, he was former director of the California Iceberg Lettuce Commission, member of the Imperial Sweet Onion Commission and Western Growers Association. Mohamed earned a bachelor of science degree in agronomy from Cal Poly Pomona.

**WILLIAM N. MONCOVICH****Member since 2003**

Moncovich started his strawberry growing and shipping enterprises in 1970. His companies are located throughout California: California Giant Inc.; Crown Nursery; Rio Mesa Farms; California Giant Cooling; Cal Pacific Specialty Foods; Pacific Frozen Foods and New West Cooling. He obtained his degree at CSU Chico.

**MARY BORBA PARENTE****Member since 2001**

Parente has owned and operated the L&M Dairy in Chino since 1975. She is a member of the Dairy Council of California and an alternate to the California Milk Advisory Board. She is also a member of the American Ag Credit Board and in 1998 she was nominated "Woman of the Year" for the 61st Assembly District. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of San Diego.

**KAREN ROSS****Member since 2001**

Ross is president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers, executive director of the Winegrape Growers of America and the California Winegrape Growers Foundation. Ross has held these positions since 1996. She was previously vice president of governmental affairs for the Agricultural Council of California and director of government relations for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. She received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Nebraska Lincoln.